

Community Preservation Committee
Final Application for Funding
Town of Maynard Town Building
194 Main St, Maynard MA 01754

Project Title: Pollinator Meadow Redesign

Date: October 25, 2021

Applicant/Contact Person: Lizza Smith for the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Pollinator Meadow

Mailing and Email Address: Friends of the Pollinator Meadow, c/o Lizza Smith, 2 Maple Court, Maynard
lizzarileysmith888@gmail.com

CPA Category: Recreation

CPA Funds Requested: \$160,500 for Phase I and Phase II (see budget)

Total Cost of Project: \$160,500

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pollinator Meadow at ArtSpace, Maynard, needs renovation. It has the potential to expand its current mission: to promote education, awareness, and visibility of threatened resources and provide passive recreation in the form of walking, self-guided garden tours, and community events such as poetry readings, scout meetings, school field trips, and art openings. The target audience is Maynard residents and visitors, especially schools and students, interested in pollinators, habitats, and gardens; an estimated audience of 2,000-3,000 people during the 8-month season.

Objectives:

1. Provide a walkable, accessible, unique Meadow in Maynard for all residents to enjoy
2. Create educational programming for children and adults in a free, accessible park
3. Preserve native plants and animals according to cutting-edge ecological research
4. Enrich the community with public art in a garden setting
5. Demonstrate ecologically sound gardening practices

COMMUNITY NEED

The current Meadow at ArtSpace was originally conceived of and created by a group of dedicated volunteers: artists from ArtSpace and nearby neighbors. This group saw the opportunity to turn a degraded site (the former Fowler School Gymnasium) into a viable habitat garden for bees. Receiving wide community support, the initial project was accomplished with crowdfunding and support from the then-Town Planner. Since that time the Meadow has been a popular attraction for Maynard residents and

visitors from other communities. Several public events have been held there. Local artists were commissioned to create new work celebrating native pollinators, making the Meadow a unique combination of art, nature, and habitat restoration. The location provides easy walking access from downtown Maynard, the library, and the Rail Trail. It contributes to Maynard's designation as a Cultural Community.

However, the Meadow is in great need of redesigning and revitalizing to meet its mission and fulfill its potential: to promote awareness, education and visibility of threatened pollinator species, and to provide passive recreation in a variety of forms that benefit many segments of Maynard's population.

From an ecological perspective, we understand that the current flora that has proliferated over the years, including a number of invasive species, is not suitable for supporting the great variety of pollinators which have been severely and seriously compromised by habitat loss and overuse of pesticides. Given that we are facing a growing pollinator crisis, many states, cities and towns throughout the US are now making efforts to address this issue, including passing legislation to improve pollinator habitat in urban, suburban, and peri-urban communities, providing state-sponsored public education programs, providing direction to agencies such as DPWs regarding mowing schedules, and even in some cases establishing Pollinator Advisory Committees to inform legislators on pollinator issues.

New research emphasizing pollinator preservation has led to the Meadow being re-named, and areas in need of renovation have been identified. Even in its current state, the Meadow demonstrates the viability and attractiveness of native plant and pollinator habitats. The Meadow is now part of a network of native pollinator systems identified by research ecologist Dr. Robert Gegear of UMass Dartmouth.

All efforts, large or small, at the state, county and community level are therefore important ones to take. This is why we are requesting funding to renovate the current habitat in a manner that will better meet the needs of threatened species, as well as allow us to create a significantly enhanced community resource to our town.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

An organization has been formed, The Friends of the Pollinator Meadow, which will:

- Engage a landscape architect/landscape designer team (see attachment A, estimate from Isabel Wheat and Laurie Ellsworth) to design a plan to renovate gardens and pathways for ADA compliance, low maintenance, and habitat preservation and education.
- With the landscape designer and architect, seek community input and finalize construction plans
- Add native plants to provide food and shelter for native pollinators as advised by cutting edge science from Dr. Robert Gegear of UMass Dartmouth <https://gegearlab.weebly.com>
- Invite school groups, civic and gardening organizations, and the public to visit; the garden is free to all

The Goals and Purpose of the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow:

- Better utilize this underused town green space
- Preserve the meadow as an **educational garden of native ecosystems**
- Attract and engage **more visitors**

- Facilitate ways to create and improve ADA-compliant access to allow participation by all citizens
- Engage the community in **creating passive recreation** opportunities
- Design **low-maintenance garden** beds for **endangered native plants and pollinators**
- Create **new educational signage** designed according to research by mentor Dr. Robert Gegear of UMass Dartmouth

In summer of 2021, the Friends recruited volunteers to weed the Meadow on a weekly basis.

In spring of 2021, the Friends met with town representatives to seek guidance and input into the scope of our proposed project and timeline. We further plan to ask the Town of Maynard to designate the Meadow as a town park in order to protect and preserve the space.

The Friends re-dedicated the Meadow in September, 2021, with a reception and talk by Dr. Gegear and the owners of Bluestem Natives, a native plant nursery. The event celebrated the natural world of Maynard in its Sesquicentennial year and outlined possibilities for the future. Approximately 50 people attended and several signed up to volunteer with the Friends. The Friends presented a certificate of appreciation to Maynard Boy Scout Troop 130 for their brush clearing assistance and thanked volunteers for weeding, maintenance, and organizing events (Attachment D).

BUDGET

Proposed Two Phase / Two Year Budget

Phase	Amount
Phase I	
Salary for Landscape Designer team to draft plans for ADA compliance, increased access, improve entryways, low-maintenance design	\$10,625
Other Expenses	
Site Survey	\$5,000
On-Site Supervisor	\$10,000
Total for Phase I:	\$25,625

Phase II

Based upon recommendations of Phase I,

rough construction estimate	\$100,000
On-Site Supervisor	\$20,000
Signage design and installation	\$15,000
Total for Phase II:	\$135,000
	\$160,625

Funding

Other, In-Kind

Ongoing volunteer maintenance and fundraising by Friends of the Pollinator Meadow

TIMELINE:

Phase I: Summer, 2022: Design Planning

Phase II: Summer, 2023: Construction/implementation of Design Plan

Phase I: Site Survey, Landscape Design and Planning in Summer, 2022

Landscape Architect and Designer team Isabel Wheat and Laurie Ellsworth will draft a plan to rehabilitate and restore the existing Meadow (Attachment B):

- Survey the property. A recent search of documents in Maynard Town Hall and elsewhere revealed that there are no surveys or floor plans of the former Fowler Gymnasium available. One survey was found, dated 1915, made at the time of the original purchase of the property for a school (Attachment C).
- Design ADA compliant pathways, seating, and explore potential site grading; renovate pathways and entrances to make them ADA compliant.
- Re-design pathways, seating and open spaces to create an educational as well as recreational resource
- Re-design the garden to enhance habitat for native pollinators and accommodate educational programs
- Create and improve educational and directional signage using research by Dr. Robert Gegear
- Improve access for volunteers to facilitate current weeding, toward the goal of a low-maintenance meadow
- Create a demonstration garden for conservation, education, and habitat preservation

Phase II: Construction/Implementation of landscape design plan in Summer, 2023

- Widen, improve, and extend existing pathways
- Make pathways and entrances ADA compliant using curb cuts, hand rails and other recommendations
- Install new seating
- Install new signage, including entranceway gate and educational signage, so that the Meadow is more visible
- Install improved flower beds and plant native shrubs and plants

- Possible re-grading for better access and ADA compliance
- On-site manager Lisa Heffley will oversee and act as liaison

Phase III: Utilize Friends of the Pollinator Meadow's resources to plant, enrich, and maintain The Meadow

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Friend of the Pollinator Meadow is a group with wide and varied professional expertise. The group includes:

- ArtSpace artists
- A local resident who was a professional plant buyer, familiar with many native species and garden design
- A site manager with extensive agricultural experience, who has already organized volunteers in maintenance projects and will act as liaison between ArtSpace, the landscape architect team, and the town.
- Dedicated Maynard residents and neighbors with backgrounds in education, research, conservation, and native plant gardening.

The Friends have close support in the expert guidance of pollination systems researcher and educator Dr. Robert Gegear of UMass Dartmouth. He has visited the Meadow and made recommendations for native plant-based pollination systems that will improve bee, insect, and bird habitat while providing educational materials and topics for continuing education and outreach.

The Friends have the ability to source appropriate plants from Bluestem Natives as well as contributions from volunteers and the community gardeners. The Friends have created a network of volunteers including Boy Scouts, ArtSpace artists, and area gardeners to assist with ongoing maintenance for weeding and brush clearing.

The Meadow redesign will be implemented in Summer 2022 by landscape architect Laurie Ellsworth and Native Plant Garden Designer Isabel Wheat (<http://www.wheatlandscaping.com> , <http://www.ltelandarch.com>). They have requested a good and recent survey of the site, which will be the first step in landscape design and architecture. The actual design process will involve community input as to the forms of passive recreation desired; native plants for attractive landscaping, habitat, and 4-season interest; and the potential for the site to meet and expand local students' educational needs.

MAINTENANCE PLAN

The Friends of the Pollinator Meadow (Attachment A), will advance this project with support from a wide volunteer network, including Maynard Boy Scouts, Meadow neighbors, and organizations such as the Maynard Community Gardeners to assist with weeding, planting advice, and maintenance. Ongoing habitat recommendations, plant selections, and planting advice will be provided by Dr. Gegear and the Native Pollinator Task Force, an arm of Sudbury Valley Trustees (<https://www.svtweb.org/mca-native-pollinator-task-force>).

In summer, 2021, the on-site supervisor organized Tuesday evening weeding bees and will continue to conduct ongoing volunteer weeding days. The Friends plan to continue weeding days with existing volunteers and will continue to encourage yearly maintenance projects through their ongoing relationship with Maynard Scouts while broadening outreach to scout groups, schools, area gardeners, and existing networks of native plant and pollinator organizations such as the Native Pollinator Task Force.

The Friends have had initial fundraising success: the Sesquicentennial reception was funded by a small grant from the Maynard Local Cultural Council, matched by donor contributions.

In 2022-23, the Friends will publicize the project, including volunteer opportunities, through garden tours, webpage updates (<https://www.artspacemaynard.com/pollinator-meadow/>), the Meadow's Facebook page, print articles, and on-site information. The Friends plan outreach to area schools to promote the Meadow to National Honor Society students, Seniors looking for volunteer projects, and other student volunteers.

List of Attachments

Attachment A: Contact List for the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow

Attachment B: Estimate and Proposed Scope of Work from Isabel Wheat and Laurie Ellsworth, Landscape Architect and Designer Team

Attachment C: 1915 Plot Plan of Summer Street lot (Fowler School); the only extant survey found to date

Attachment D: Images of the Site in September, 2021, including: Boy Scout Troop 130 volunteers, the garden in autumn bloom, artwork in the garden, consultant Dr. Robert Gegear with Bluestem Natives gardeners, crowd at the opening reception and talk

Attachment E: Letters of Support

Attachment A

Friends of Pollinator Meadow List

Joyce Dwyer: 4 Durant Avenue, Maynard MA 01754 joycedwyer.artist@verizon.net

Lisa Heffley: 205A Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754 boneflow@gmail.com

Denise Shea: 44 Brooks Street, Maynard MA 01754

Lizza Smith: 2 Maple Court, Maynard MA 01754 lizzarileysmith888@gmail.com

Gary Vogel: Concord Street, Maynard MA 01754

Carolyn Wirth: 226 Red Acre Road, Stow MA 01775 cvw198@yahoo.com

Attachment B: Landscape Architect/Designer Estimate

July 13, 2021

Lisa Heffley
205A Main Street
Maynard, MA 01754

Cc: Friends of the Pollinator Meadow

RE: Professional Landscape Architectural Design and Installation Services for the Pollinator Meadow at ArtSpace Maynard, Maynard, MA.

Dear Lisa and Friends of the Pollinator Meadow,

We are pleased to submit this proposal for a Planning Grant in creation of an attractive and accessible Garden and Education space for the Pollinator Meadow located behind ArtSpace Maynard in Maynard, MA.

This proposal (in Draft format) identifies the scope of work and tasks we are prepared to produce to meet the goals and desires of the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow organization. This Scope describes the initial Design work phase to be followed by installation work by Wheat Landscape Gardening & Design.

Scope of Work

It is our understanding that a survey will be performed and completed to the extent that we may use such information as a base plan for our Landscape Architectural work. We understand the Pollinator Meadow behind the ArtSpace will incorporate new paths from the parking lot to and through the garden space and up into the higher back lot (if feasible due to elevations) and to access the street at the rear of the property. These paths and remaining spaces will incorporate possible open gathering areas and plant beds that will be full of native plant materials which are most attractive to native bees, and butterflies. We are experienced native plant garden designers and follow best practices as outlined by native plant systems researchers such as Dr. Robert Gegear. The re-grading of the area may require Engineering expertise to tie into existing drainage structures and other town utilities. The expressed desire for utilizing the area as an educational area for understanding the habits and habitats of bees and butterflies will allow us to design for plants that are attracting to such insects as well as to design for possible inclusion of performance areas and/or sitting and viewing areas for educational field trips.

Such possibilities will be incorporated into design concepts for your approval.

Design of possibly needed engineered features such as catch basins or other rain collecting structures would require joint involvement of a civil engineer. The need for this task has not been determined at this point.

Tasks

The following tasks will be required to create the garden and gathering areas as requested.

- Site visits to review the site against the survey plan, with FPM members and to review the design in progress.
- Meetings with Members to finalize design program and discuss/review progress.
- Creation of a Base Plan (from survey) for design needs
- Development of Conceptual Design ideas
- Meet with client to review Concept Design ideas
- Work with Engineers to incorporate drainage/utility info.
- Creation of Final plan for acceptance
- Refine conceptual design and develop into a Final Hardscape and later Landscape Plan(s), Planting Plan & Schedule, and possible Detail Sheet.
in Computer generated format.
- Present final plan to client (you) for obtaining bids.

Additional Services

We can provide several additional services should the need arise. We encourage our clients to utilize contractors that we have had a history of working with. However, we are also opened to working with new contractors with whom the client has a good relationship or with another of good reputation within the area.

Should we work with contractors unknown to us, then subsequent instructional drawings may be needed. If this is the case, such drawings would be considered additional services and if required, we would be happy to extend this proposal at the standard hourly rate to meet your needs. Other Additional services, such as the following can be accommodated at your request.

- Additional design work for Lighting or irrigation work and/or coordination with these installation specialists.
- Assisting client with Bid acceptance
- Overseeing of the Hardscape/Landscape project construction with Construction Inspection services (highly recommended).
- Additional or further design work for other portions of the property.
- Attendance at public hearings/ meetings or additional work needed as requested from public officials.

If additional services are needed and we still have not exceeded the estimated design fee, then these services will be provided without cost until the fee has been reached.

Estimated Design Fee/Invoicing

The design fee for this proposal shall be at the rate of \$125. dollars per hour. Having discussed the initial needs and understanding that the design program has not been finalized, it is estimated that approximately 85 hours will be required to complete the tasks described and therefore the rough estimated design fee is \$10,625. for this project. Planting costs and installation will be provided and initiated once the planting plan has been accepted.

Invoicing will reflect time spent on accomplishing the tasks to date. All time spent on the project is expected to be paid and upon receipt.

Please feel free to call or email to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. We have done our best to describe services as we see required to meet your needs. If you have a different understanding or idea as far as accomplishing the tasks, then we would be more than happy to discuss them with you so that we can come to an agreement.

If you agree with this Proposal/Contract, please sign a copy and mail back to Wheat LG&D along with a check for \$1500. (One thousand five hundred dollars) as a deposit/retainer for services and to commence work. Again, we would be happy to discuss any questions you may have, and can be reached at 978.422.8278 (Isabel), at iewheat@earthlink.net, or 978.549.0337 (Laurie), at LTE@LTELandarch.com

We are looking forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Laurie Tarr Ellsworth
LTE Landscape Architecture, LLC
219 Ellis Rd
Westminster, MA 01473

Isabel Wheat
Wheat Landscape Gardening & Design
P.O. Box 43
Sterling, MA 01564

Agreed by:

Authorized signature of Friends of the Pollinator Meadow Date

Attachment D: Images of the Meadow at a community opening party in September, 2021. Top, L-R: Visitors and artwork in the Meadow, Consultant Dr. Robert Gegear with Bluestem Natives gardeners. Bottom, L-R: Boy Scout Troop 130 volunteers, visitors including Native Pollinator Task Force volunteers.



Attachment E: Letters of Support



October 7, 2021

Dear Maynard CPC:

I am writing this letter to support the proposal being submitted to you by the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow in Maynard.

Over the past five years, Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) has been working to increase habitat that will support native pollinators and to educate the general public about the needs of our native pollinators. More recently, SVT has been supporting the work of the Metrowest Conservation Alliance's Native Pollinator Task Force (NPTF). The NPTF has fine-tuned their planting recommendations based on the research of Dr. Robert Gegaer so that new habitats will better support declining species of native pollinators.

SVT is thrilled to see the fantastic efforts that the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow in Maynard have been initiating to improve both education and habitat for native pollinators. These types of community efforts are exactly what is needed to spread the word and provide real benefits to native pollinators in our region.

We strongly encourage you to support their proposal.

Sincerely,



Laura Mattei
Director of Stewardship

Maynard Community Gardeners

P.O. Box 522 • Maynard, MA 01754

<https://maynardcommunitygardeners.org>



To Whom it may Concern:

12 October 2021

Our group, the Maynard Community Gardeners (MCG), wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow, in their application for a CPC grant. The Pollinator Meadow has become a destination in our Maynard community for families, residents, and a benchmark for other pollinator groups.

The desire of the Pollinator Meadow group to rework the pathways, for ADA access is an important step for general public access. Whether it is for wheelchair or baby carriage access, it will allow all to learn about & enjoy the meadow. While currently visiting the meadow, you can see families enjoying the grounds for picnics, viewing the outside artwork, or find children safely riding their bikes in the parking lot.

This grant will allow the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow to continue to plant & maintain the recommended native plantings needed for healthy bee life, in addition to providing a much-needed, healthy green space for the entire community to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Debra Bishop
Hospitality Seat of the MCG

October 19, 2021

Dear Maynard CPC:

I am writing this letter in support of the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow in Maynard.

My research into Pollinator Systems ecology in the Metrowest area has revealed key ecological dependencies between native plants and bumblebees, butterflies, moths, and other insects now in sharp decline in towns like Maynard. We must act swiftly to preserve native plant habitats, which, under the right stewardship, can provide food, shelter, nesting, and reproductive strategies for many endangered native animal species. The Pollinator Meadow in Maynard is one link in a chain of newly established habitats that support declining species of native pollinators.

I am encouraged by the efforts that the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow in Maynard have been initiating to improve both education and habitat for native pollinators. These types of community efforts are urgently needed to provide real benefits, including education as well as habitat remediation, to native pollinators in our region.

I encourage you to support their proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Gegear', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Robert Gegear
Department of Biology
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth



Town of Maynard
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town Building
195 Main Street Maynard, Massachusetts 01754
978-897-1360
Conservation@townofmaynard.net

October 23, 2021

To Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

In the 2020 Town of Maynard Master Plan Report, one of the goals found under the Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources is to *“Enhance the protection and preservation of sensitive natural resource areas that contribute to the health and well-being of the community as well as offer critical habitat to wildlife and provide important ecological functions.”*

The mission of the Conservation Commission is to protect the natural resources and open spaces in Maynard. This includes encouraging public participation in accomplishing this goal. Protecting our open space is important as it increases the quality of life for all residents, and it provides biological diversity. Members of the Conservation Commission unanimously agree that the grant that the Friends of the Pollinator Meadow fall under both the mission of the Conservation Commission and the goals set forth in the Maynard 2020 Master Plan and that we support their grant application.

On behalf of the Maynard Conservation Commission,

Susan J. Erickson

Susan J. Erickson Chair, Maynard Conservation Commission.